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FEB 24 2004

In re Application of:

SMITH *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/658,440

Filed: September 08, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: 7719-116

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102, filed September 08, 2003, to make the above-identified application special.

Petitioner requests that the above-identified application be made special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.), Section 708.02, Item VIII: Accelerated Examination.

A grantable petition to make special under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102 and in accordance with M.P.E.P., Section 708.02, Item VIII, must be accompanied by (a) the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i), (b) a statement that all claims are directed a single invention or an offer to make an oral election without traverse should the Patent and Trademark Office hold that the claims are not directed to a single invention, (c) a statement that a pre-examination search has been made by the inventor, attorney, agent, professional searcher, etc., and a listing of the field of search by class and subclass, (d) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims, and (e) a detailed description of the submitted references and discussions pointing out how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over these references.

The petition satisfies the above requirements. Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

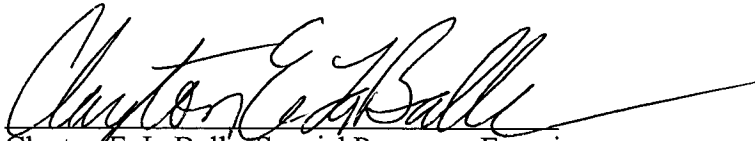
If the examiner can make this application special without prejudice to any possible interfering applications, and he/she should make a rigid search for such, he/she is authorized to do so for the next action. Should the application be rejected, the application will not be considered special for the subsequent action unless the applicant promptly makes a bona fide effort to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to have an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

If the examiner finds any interfering application for the same subject matter, he/she should consider such application simultaneously with this application and should state in the official letter of such application that she/he is taking it out of its turn because of possible interference.

Should an appeal be taken in this application or should this application becomes involved in an interference, consideration of the appeal and the interference will be expedited by all Patent and Trademark Office officials concerned, contingent likewise upon diligent prosecution by the applicant.

After allowance, this application will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. § 1309.

Inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to Clayton E. LaBalle at (571) 272-1594.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Clayton E. LaBalle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clayton E. LaBalle, Special Programs Examiner
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